



The British International
School of Brussels

EYFS Nursery



Dear Parents,

What an amazing adventure we have had in nursery this week, all four of us! As you are aware numbers of children in class have been a little bit on the sparse side, but we would like to say a “great big thank you” to everyone for going that extra mile and keeping your little one at home until they are completely recovered from all of their coughs and sneezes, sore throats and tummy aches.

Well done to the children who were germ free and made it through to the end of this week, amongst other things, they enjoyed exploring the music area without any arguments over whose turn it was to wear the sparkly hats as there were enough to fit four little heads without any turn taking involved!

However, one of the most exciting events this week was of course the snow! It came for a very short time but caused such a buzz amongst the children, some who have never experienced snow before. It was too cold and wet to go outside, without suitable footwear, so we brought a little bit of winter wonderland into the nursery with big bowls of the wonderful white stuff, which Mrs Davies collected from various snow covered objects outside of the school!

The children then proceeded to make some fantastic miniature snow people, icebergs and snowballs until their hands got too cold to keep going. We then did a little bit of science and watched the snow melt throughout the day, leaving the snow people's button eyes and some stranded penguins in puddles on the table and the water was freezing to touch!

The other magical event was a visit from “St Nicolas” on Thursday evening, so when we came into Nursery on Friday morning, we found a delightful package of biscuits, chocolate coins and a piece of fruit, hidden in our giant glittering shoe, that we painted especially for the occasion. Don't worry, St Nicolas didn't forget about the people off ill and he left your surprise waiting for when you come back to school.

We do hope everyone is feeling a lot better and we look forward to seeing some returners next week, because “Christmas” in all of its glittering glory is about to begin big time in Nursery! Our music theme will incorporate the magic of Christmas in song, dance, instrument making and traditional Christmas rhyme.

Please remember to wrap your little one up warm and put on a pair of wellies if it is wet and, if by chance we have some more of the wonderful snow, everyone can get out there without getting wet socks and cold feet!

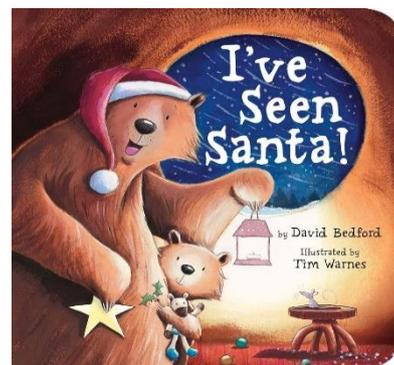
Until then have a magnificent weekend and we look forward to seeing you all again soon and don't forget to discuss our **talk topic**, "Why is snow white, why not pink or purple or green?"

Alison Davies, Vanessa di Fine & Anna Nagy nurseryteacher@telenet.be

EYFS Reception

Dear Parents,

Believe it or not, December is here, and the magic of Christmas is at its height. Everybody is very excited about the Christmas trees and the beautiful seasonal decorations on display around the school. We have finished 'Our precious planet Earth' topic and we immediately dove into pine trees, baubles, tinsel and glitter. Our storybook of the week was 'I've seen Santa' by David Bedford.



We have hung a very big Christmas tree on our big wall in the classroom and put up silver tinsel and twinkling lights on it. However, the best part of decorating it was done by the children in our art session of the week. They were given templates of big baubles to colour. The final touch was to make them shiny and sparkly by gluing red and gold glitter on them. The children's faces said it all when they saw the glitter make its exciting appearance in class. So early apologies for sending your children home with glitter in

their hair, uniforms and even under their fingernails. It does get everywhere and it's hard to scrub it off! Regarding crafts, the children also made, with Mrs. Nagy's help this time, some beautiful ornaments in the shape of a Christmas tree using modelling clay and decorating them with glitter and golden pine trees.



Another fascinating event this week was the snow on Thursday! What a delight to watch the playground all covered in white. The children were desperate to go out from the appearance of the very first snowflake. They were allowed to in the afternoon when the sun came out (for like 5 minutes!) and they enjoyed making snowballs and trying to build a snowman. Big disappointment on this area because the snow was not enough for the task! We will surely have more snow in the future and hopefully it will be enough to make more than a snowman. Please be reminded to send the children in proper winter shoes, we had many children with wet shoes and socks and it is not good for them to spend the whole day with wet feet. Remember that inside they wear slipper or indoor shoes, so although wellies and winter boots are big and would be uncomfortable to wear during the whole day, they will definitely be comfortable indoors.



In Maths we have been working on sequencing numbers up to ten. Despite many children being able to count by rote to far more than 10, our aim is for them to understand and learn the quantity within each number and know how to sequence not just the numeral itself, but numbers within a set of objects. So for example, they were given number lines with missing numbers to be completed as well as sets of one, two, three, four, so on up to 10, objects for them to count and sequence in

order. Once they could achieve it successfully, we added the difficulty of doing it backwards, sequencing numbers in order from 10 to 0.

In Literacy we have introduced Letter sounds j, v and w. We have worked a lot orally because sounds v and w are usually confused by the children and hard to pronounce. Our blending practice is going very well, the children are understanding better how it is done and we can already see progress in the way they try to blend the sounds. You will find a piece for work with a reading and matching activity with cvc words (consonant-vowel-consonant). You will see that there is a dot under each letter of each word. This shows that each letter makes an individual sound, we call the dots 'sound buttons'. So for instance, in the word cat we'll have three sound buttons as each letter is sounded out individually: /c/ /a/ /t/. In the months to come we will introduce digraphs, two letters that make one sound like 'th' in the word 'that'. The aim at this stage of the year is that the children learn to say individual letter sounds. Here is the link for the song we sing in class and which you can sing at home to practise:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZfjUQ6IEQs>

Our PE sessions this week have been frustrated by the weather so we have promised the children that we will catch up next week if, hopefully, the weather permits. They nevertheless move a lot during the day in the classroom and when we see it's not possible to take them out, we dance to action songs, play indoor circle games and have some relaxing short meditation sessions.



Our **Talk topic** for next week: which is your favourite Christmas decoration?

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be



KS1 Year 1

Dear Parents,

There was much excitement in Year 1 this week. Firstly, the Christmas tree was put up in school and secondly, we had a bit of snowfall! We did not miss the opportunity to get outside and experience the white stuff. It also brought with it some lovely opportunities for developing vocabulary and an impromptu science investigation about melting. We've also had the last few rehearsals for our show 'Eddie and the Penguins'. Thank you for sending in the costumes, we really do appreciate your interest and support.



LITERACY

LITERACY

We began reading and writing activities about polar bears this week. After reading a non-fiction text about these wonderful creatures, the children were asked

to write and illustrate an additional two pages for the book. The first had the heading, 'Life in the Cold' and the task was to draw an outline of a polar bear then label it with how its body has adapted in order for it to



live in such harsh conditions. The second page they had to create had the heading, 'Amazing Facts About Polar Bears'. My goodness, we know a lot!

It's always such a pleasure to see the children sharing books with each other.



MATHS



We estimated then measured the length of Harshit's glasses.

This week we finished our work on measure using non-standard and standard units. The children were given a range of everyday items to find the length of. They were shown how to add and subtract

Using a number line to count on and back.

by counting on and counting back. We practised this first with a number line as it

helps the children to form a strong visual image for this quite abstract concept.



ART

We have been putting the finishing touches to the backdrops and props for the production. We don't want to give too much away (that's why there are no photos!) but we've been busy making masks and adding detail to the scenery.



TOPIC

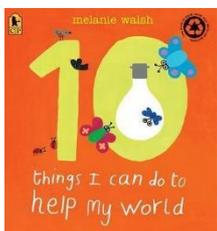
We plotted Eddie's trip around the world on a map and globe. We referred back to some of the reasons for climate change that are mentioned in the production and also some potential solutions. For example, instead of turning up the heating if you're cold, put on some extra clothes instead. The children were asked to record things they could do at home and at school to care for the environment.

TALK TOPIC: What things do you and your family already do to care for the environment? Is there anything else you could all agree to do?

Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Corrigan and Mrs. Bandaru year1teacher@telenet.be

KS1 Year 2



Dear Parents,

This week in Year 2, the children were delighted to have the chance to play a little in the snow, and, for the non-swimming half of the class, to undertake a scientific investigation into the melting times of different sized ice blocks.

Our writing sessions this week were focused on making individual zig-zag books inspired by our class book: '10 Things I can do to help my world'. Each idea in our own books was presented as a

statement (eg. *I remember to turn off the lights when I leave a room/ I like to plant seeds because plants are good for the planet*). We practised changing our statements into questions, beginning with *Do you...* (*Do you remember to turn off the lights? Do you plant seeds?*)



A particular English grammar focus this week was on the simple past tense for some common verbs (especially *do/did, go/went, see/saw, come/came, make/made, get/got, feel/felt*)

During our Wacky Wednesday sessions, we experimented with transforming paint fingerprints to create bookmarks featuring penguins, snowmen and reindeer, before discovering lots of the new Christmas and winter books.

We had another very productive swimming lesson with everyone practising swimming on their own both on their back and front. We also learnt how to use our hands to pull us through the water with a breaststroke action – a bit more complicated than just holding onto the noodle, but everyone tried very hard. We also had the first go at jumping in off the side – which takes a lot of courage and a big deep breath before taking the plunge. It's a great feeling though when you find out you can do it. It might have been very cold outside but having worked so hard, we all came out feeling quite warm!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Read and Mrs. Tolentino year2teacher@telenet.be

Music - Acorn Building:

Reception



This week we had great fun playing with the sticks. We learned how we can tap (x) and say our name at the same time (e.g my(x) name (x) is (x) Leo (x x)). We learned the difference between the rhythm and the beat. The rhythm changes with the words while the beat stays the same. On top of this we also practised our Christmas songs as the performance day is getting closer!

Years 1 & 2

Almost ready to be on stage! This week we had a general rehearsal of our Christmas Show "Eddie the Penguin Save the World". Children know all the songs and lines flawlessly. The excitement to perform with the costumes on the stage is overwhelming! It's going to be magical!

French - Acorn Building: Reception, Years 1 & 2 with Mme. Scharf

Reception:

In French, we continued talking about Saint-Nicolas and tasted some biscuits he brought to school. We learnt to politely ask : "Je voudrais un biscuit s'il vous plaît." On Thursday we looked out of the window and could finally say : "Il neige ! Je mets mes bottes, mon bonnet, des gants et un manteau ! Il fait froid !" We also sang a song for Saint-Nicolas.

Year 1:

We continued talking about Saint- Nicolas and repeated all the facts we have learnt about him. We also continued asking for something in a very polite manner by saying : “Je voudrais un biscuit s’il vous pas plaît” and tasted some delicious biscuits Saint-Nicolas brought into school. We continued singing our song for him and made a picture. We also rehearsed the song we are learning for Christmas.



Year 2:

We continued talking about Saint- Nicolas and now know many facts about him. We also described him in order to use all the adjectives we have learnt and added a new one : “il est vieux” (he is old). We continued asking for something in a very polite manner by saying : “Je voudrais un biscuit s’il vous pas plaît.” and tasted very nice biscuits that Saint-Nicolas brought in. We sang our song for him and also rehearsed the song we are learning for Christmas.



KS2 Year 3

Dear Parents,

To everyone’s delight, we reached the end of The Magic Paintbrush this week – Shen having finally got the better of the evil Emperor! The children produced some more great sentences, and their own collaborative version is now complete on the classroom window. Next week we begin work on writing an alternative version. In grammar, we looked at the final group of conjunctions - those showing cause - such as ‘because’, ‘as’, ‘since’ etc. In our reading groups, we studied a fiction text about pirate treasure, with the focus on answering ‘inference’ questions. We also finished our class story ‘Fantastic Mr Fox’ and have started a new one – an abridged version of ‘A Christmas Carol’.



It has been a week of number work in Maths - placing 3-digit numbers on blank number lines, rounding to the nearest 100 and revisiting the use of the ‘frog method’ for 2-digit subtractions (also known as the ‘counting up’ method or finding the difference). This method becomes necessary when the 1s numbers are not easily mentally subtracted, as in 72-47. As is often the case, the emphasis is on breaking the problem down into separate operations that we can do quickly in our heads: e.g. for 72-47, we count on from 47 to 50 (3), then from 50 to 70 (20), then from 70 to 72 (2), then add 20+3+2=25 – absolutely no need for column subtraction!

Sun safety and the spectrum of light were our focus in Science – we learnt about harmful UV rays, how visible light is made up of the seven colours of the spectrum, and watched a video showing how light shining through a prism can be broken up into those seven colours. We also set up a mirror maze – making a beam of light reflect off two separate mirrors, which allowed us to change the direction of the beam. Finally we revised symmetry, and the children drew half of a symmetrical object and placed a mirror on its line of symmetry to then see it as a ‘whole’.



In our Topic session we looked in some detail at the Shang dynasty of Ancient China – when it began and ended, and how its society was organised. We examined its hierarchy, from the king to the slaves, and learnt about aspects of life for each of the ‘social levels’ in between. In art, we followed a step-by-step method for drawing accurately a Chinese pagoda-style building, which, once finished, will add to our new classroom display, to go with the dragon puppets and the Chinese writing!

Online Maths homework for this week is ‘Starfish Strike 3.10’, about finding the difference between two 2-digit numbers.

Talk Topic for next week is ‘What magical object would you like to write a traditional tale about? What sort of things could your object do?’

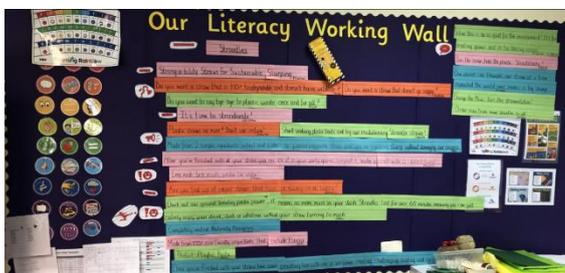
Enjoy the weekend,
Patrick Tranter and Naomi Irakoze
year3teacher@telenet.be



Year 4

Dear Parents,

The Christmas season has officially started here in year 4 and the children have been getting into the holiday spirit! In our art session we made some great ‘kirigami’ (an artform that combines folding and cutting) Christmas trees to decorate our classroom windows. We also made a start on our Christmas cards which are also inspired by Christmas trees this year and involve some careful drawing and mixing of watercolour paints. In music the Children have been enjoying singing some Christmas songs too!

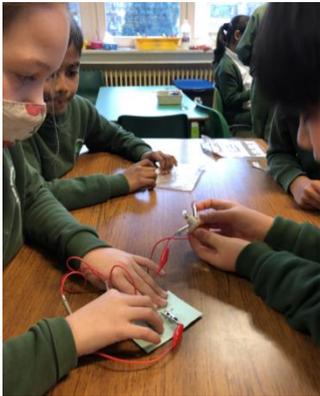


In Literacy we finished writing our advert for ‘stroodles’ the pasta straws. The children finally got a chance to have and test their own stroodle this week and we went onto the stroodles website to find some fun games we could play with them. Who knew that you could decorate them or make them into a rocket?! We then used our experiences to write the ‘testimonial’ part of the advert. Finally, we finished with the

‘act now’ section where we use some imperative verbs to instruct people to go out and get their stroodles. Next week we will be using all that we have learned about the structure of a persuasive advert and the language choices typically used in this text type to write our own persuasive adverts for another very useful and interesting eco-friendly invention.

In our spelling sessions we practiced writing sentences with our focus five words, did a lesson on finding families of words by adding prefixes and suffixes to change a root word and sorted a series of words with the same letter strings but different pronunciation into groups.

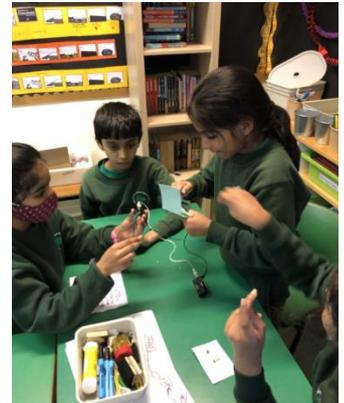
In Maths we learned all about subtraction this week. We developed our confidence with 3- and 4-digit column addition and we can mostly do it with a good degree of accuracy now. We also revisited the frog method of counting on and spent some time discussing when the column method is more effective and when the frog method can be more helpful. We finished the week revisiting the grid method of multiplication in preparation for more work on multiplication methods next week.



In Science we continued with our electricity topic and the children learned all about switches and why they are so useful to have in an electrical circuit. They then did an investigation to make their own switches in groups using metal objects such as paperclips and foil and put them into a circuit to switch a light on and off.

Talk topic – Pick up a common object at home such as a book, pen or remote control. Can you ‘sell’ your object to someone at home in one minute using

persuasive language ? Did you persuade your listener to ‘buy’ it?



Kind Regards,

Camilla Rutayisire Year4teacher@telenet.be

*Adding switches to
electrical circuits in
Science*

Year 5

Dear Parents,

Times are very uncertain and our complement in class fluctuated a bit this week but nonetheless, fun and learning were a sure thing. The week started with a gently descending bang as we hit the playground and watched things fall; got the Oak parachute out for gravity and air resistance games; and then popped back inside to do a falling cake-case experiment.

This was a great experiment: a nice, straightforward investigation to execute and watch; precise timing and recording; averaging of results; drawing up bar graphs; and pulling all the findings together in careful conclusions.

Literacy saw a whopping 2 sentence stack lessons which were packed with language opportunities from gerunds to metaphors, to abstract nouns, to relative clauses. The children had to use it all!

In Topic, the children enjoyed watching recruitment videos; the nurse, the police officer, the soldier, the Royal Marine - but the Kellogg’s marketing executive didn’t have quite the same interest for the Iced Gem thrill seekers. What they really enjoyed doing was writing their CV, even if an exploratory 10-year old’s CV.

With the run up to Christmas already in swing, the Oak Christmas Tree is in need of decoration and all classes have been set the task of making some.

My tree in my mother’s house still has the 2 decorations I sewed (in Y2?) back in 1981. I remember making them clearly and it’s still incredible that they are still alive, well and looking extremely creditworthy. Well, now it’s the cohort of 2016’s opportunity. The children chose their decoration, drew their paper stencil and some managed to cut their felt pieces out. One has already started sewing the pieces together! Features on





the outside will need to be stitched and then cotton wool will need to be stuffed in the inside. Hopefully, they'll have a memento to last 40 more Christmases 😊! (Thank you to Mrs Tolentino for lending us a hand on this one).

And that was our week.

Have a good weekend,

Talk Topic: How do you think your CV will expand as you get older?

Best wishes, Tim Stedman & Mrs Tolentino year5teacher@telenet.be

Year 6

Dear Parents,

First of all, I would like to thank the Year 6 pupils for their adaptability, positivity and cheerfulness, in what has been a challenging week both academically and emotionally. Naturally, we were all disappointed with the postponement of 'Aladdin' but are looking forward to flying on that magic carpet with you in the Spring.

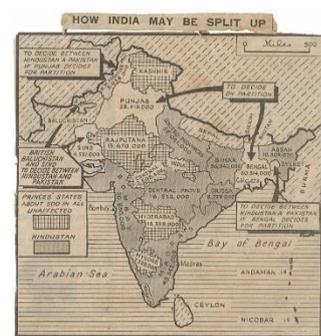
I was asked to share examples of our Alan Turing double-page spreads and photographs of the classroom display to Bletchley Park (BP). Well done, Year 6 you are now on the BP radar - *'These are fabulous and confirm that the children are excellent recruits to Bletchley Park!'*



Another high point of the week, was being the first school to receive an invitation to participate in an online workshop about the Holocaust being organised by the House of European History (HEH). The children's work will be available to all visitors to the HEH during Holocaust week. Once details and permissions have been finalised, I will update you.

'How do you feel about Indian independence from the British Empire?' This SOE interview question to Noor Inayat Khan, prompted us to delve more deeply into this complicated topic.

Using National Geographical resources, we spent the morning creating fictitious countries, presenting our ideas to each other and remodelling these. In the afternoon, having watched a BBC documentary about the partition of India, pupils took on the role of Sir Cyril Radcliffe and (using knowledge gained in the morning session) were tasked with dividing India.



Christmas is nearly here – we are busy making decorations, singing songs, playing in the snow (when available) and looking forward to all the winter wonderland festive activities taking place within the next few weeks.

TT: Noor's answer: 'I believe that the Indian people should be given their freedom. I also believe that the Indians should not press for independence at the moment. Instead, I think that we should all focus on defeating Hitler. Indian independence can come after the war'.

Happy weekend,

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter year6teacher@telenet.be

Music KS2 - Oak Building with Miss di Fine



KS2: This week we listened to a famous classical piece of music called "In the Hall of the Mountain King" by Edvard Grieg. This is just one of the five-act play in verse called "Peer Gynt" by the Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen.

Listen and watch the orchestra playing it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nMUr8Rt2AI>

We had fun performing the same piece using the technique of body percussion.

The piece was getting faster and faster and it was very hard to do all the patterns, but we had great fun! Take a look at this video for the body percussion performance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lk75qDst8wE>



We also played the game "pass the beat around the room" and sang some Christmas carols!



French - Oak Building



Year 3:

In French with Madame Scharf, we continued talking and learning about Saint-Nicolas. We described him in our notebooks and used many of the adjectives we learnt so far. We also added two more: "il est âgé" and "il est vieux" (he is old). We wrote him a letter, made a picture and sang his song.

Year 4:



In French with Madame Halvorsen, we had an exciting week imagining what it would be like to play le **saxophone** invented by the Belgian inventor Adolphe **Sax**, we talked about '**les instruments**

de musique' and for that we used le verbe '**jouer du or jouer de**' combined with the definite article **l'** and **la**'. We played a group quiz where they had to

explain if the instruments were feminine or masculine and when to use **du, de la, de l'**, and then we had a test. The excellent score was very tight between the groups because the participation was impressive. After that, we started talking about **les vêtements** (clothes) and **l'hiver** (winter) in view of getting ready for **St Nicolas** and **Noël**.

Year 5

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we had another fun week describing our clothes which will prepare us to talk about St Nicolas on Monday and his unique wardrobe, then we went on exploring four very important irregular verbs-**savoir, pouvoir, vouloir, devoir**. We saw how

these four verbs can be so practical when used with other infinitive verbs to express what we must do, what we can do, what we want to do and what we know how to do. We had short interviews and interactive games and activities. We also explored le monde de la musique with '**les instruments de musique**' used with le verbe '**jouer du or jouer de**' combined with the definite article **l'** and **la**' followed by a test.



Year 6

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we had an exciting week digging further into 'spoken French', normal daily and practical routines of everyday life and how to go back and forth between the present and the passé composé, how to be aware of when the same verb can be used differently such as '**lever and se lever**', '**asseoir and s'asseoir**' and how that can change when talking in the past tense with le passé composé using '**avoir or être**'. It was so interesting to see the team work spirit in finding the right answer and solution and how they came to their conclusions. We then enjoyed discussing,

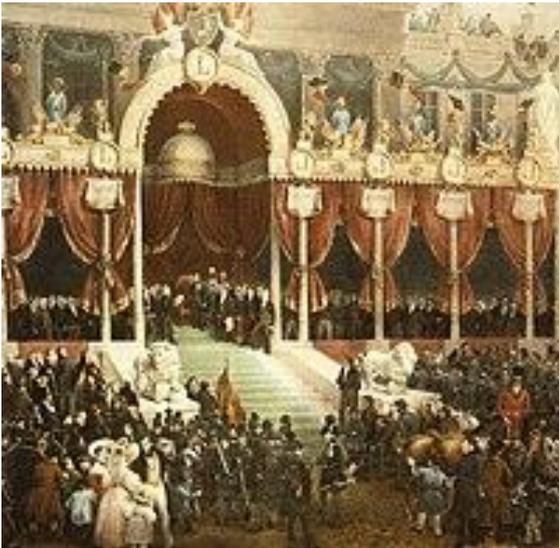
and reading a short story '**Léo et la drôle de machine**', we talked about the characters, the story and they each acted it and gave brilliant summaries using le **passé composé**.



The History, Geography and Culture of Belgium with Mme. Scharf

In French geography and history in Years 3, 4 and 5 we talked about Brussels, which the capital of Belgium but located in Flanders and which is bilingual : French and Dutch. We talked about the difference between a language and a dialect : Flemish being a dialect and Dutch a language. In Year 5, we also learnt that there is another dialect called "le bruxellois". We also studied the 19 communes of Brussels and looked at them on a map.

In Year 6, we talked about Belgium after Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo in 1815. The nations who won the battle held a congress in Vienna and redesigned Europe by making the Belgian people part of the Netherlands once again under Willem van Oranje (Guillaume d'Orange). The Belgians felt that they were not treated fairly and were therefore unhappy. There was a revolution in the summer of 1830, which began after an opera held at the Théâtre de la Monnaie and the people rebelled, chasing out the Dutch. A German king Léopold 1er (an uncle of queen Victoria) was chosen to become the king of the Belgians.



King Leopold 1st
the first king of
Belgium taking
the
constitutional
oath

Revolution
during the
Opera, at the
Theatre de la
Monnaie in the
centre of
Brussels

